



KENTUCKY PARK RANGERS

NATURAL BRIDGE STATE RESORT PARK LAWS, REGULATIONS & POLICIES

In order to protect visitors and the park, and in order to promote quality visitor experiences for everyone, there are certain activities that are prohibited and restricted within Kentucky State Parks. These prohibitions and restrictions are based on Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS-state law), Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR), Kentucky Department of Parks Policy Memoranda and Kentucky State Nature Preserve Regulations. Please help protect your park by becoming familiar with these laws and regulations.

Kentucky State Parks is a state agency mandated to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public while, at the same time, protect the states natural, cultural and historic resources. Rules have been established that safeguard each park's resources. Please help us protect these special areas. We ask that you take the time to read the information and abide by the regulations.

Kentucky Park Rangers are commissioned Law Enforcement Officers (pursuant to KRS 164.950 to 164.970) to enforce these and other state laws and regulations. THESE INCLUDE THE POWER TO CITE AND/OR ARREST VIOLATORS.

-Mission Statement-

The mission of the Kentucky Park Rangers is to serve and protect the visitors to our parks, the employees of our parks, and our park properties in a professional manner and to uphold the integrity and honor of the Kentucky Park Rangers, the Department of Parks, the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in our service.

-Our Objectives-

1. To protect the public, employees, natural resources, and other property under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Department of Parks,
2. Investigate and enforce applicable laws and regulations which affect the Kentucky Department of Parks, and
3. Prevent criminal violations through informing and educating visitors and users of applicable laws and regulations.

-Contact Us-

For more information or to report a violation please contact the Park Naturalist Office or Park Ranger Station at:

Natural Bridge State Resort Park
2135 Natural Bridge Road
Slade, Kentucky 40376-9701
Telephone: 1-606-663-2214
Toll Free: 1-800-325-1710
Fax: 1-606-663-5037



-KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES-

Writing On or Defacing Park Property or Natural Rock Formations / Trees

KRS 512.040

(1) A person is guilty of criminal mischief in the third degree when: (a) having no right to do so or any reasonable ground to believe that he has such right, he intentionally or wantonly defaces, destroys or damages any property.

Entering Rock Shelters - Permit required to excavate

KRS 164.720

(1) No person shall explore, excavate, appropriate or remove from land owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any state agency or any political subdivision or municipal corporation of the Commonwealth, any archaeological site or object of antiquity without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Anthropology upon the recommendation of the agency owning or having control of the land upon which the same is situated.

Damaging Caves

KRS 433.873

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person, without the express, prior, written permission of the owner, to willfully and knowingly break, break off, crack, carve upon, write, burn, or otherwise mark upon, remove, or in any manner destroy, disturb, deface, mar or harm the surfaces of any cave or any material which may be found therein, notwithstanding whether such material is attached or broken.

Prohibition – Archaeology

KRS 164.715

No person shall willfully injure, destroy or deface any archaeological site or object of antiquity situated on lands owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any state agency or any political subdivision or municipal corporation of the Commonwealth.

Injuring Wildlife

KRS 148.029

(1) All areas controlled by the Department of Parks and designated as camping, hiking or other family oriented recreation areas are designated wildlife sanctuaries for the purpose of affording protection to the wildlife thereon as natural, integrated, interrelated, ecological communities.

(2) No unauthorized person shall enter a wildlife sanctuary and take, damage, injure, kill, destroy or unduly disturb the wildlife therein.

Hunting

KRS 148.029, 301 KAR 2:178

Hunting is not permitted within any state park boundaries, unless the need arises to conduct a limited quota hunt for resource management purposes. All state and federal wildlife laws will be enforced.

Injuring or Removing Plants

KRS 433.750

A person who picks, pulls, digs, tears up, cuts, breaks, burns or otherwise damages any tree, shrub, flower, vine, bush or turf upon any land set aside, dedicated or maintained by this state as a public park or as a refuge or sanctuary for wild animals, birds or fish, without having first obtained permission in writing of the superintendent or custodian of the park, refuge or sanctuary shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$300.

Gathering of Firewood on Park Property is Prohibited

KRS 433.750 (See above Injuring or Removing Plants)

Littering

KRS 512.070

(1) A person is guilty of criminal littering when he: (a) drops or permits to drop on a highway any destructive or injurious material and does not immediately remove it; or (b) knowingly places or throws litter on any public or private property without permission

Restrictions on Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles

KRS 189.515

(3) A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle on public property unless the government agency responsible for the property has approved the use of all-terrain vehicles.

Pets

KRS 258.215, 304 KAR 1:040

(1) All dogs shall bear proper identification and are to be properly restrained.

NOTE: Pets are not permitted on the hiking trails at Natural Bridge State Park. Pets are not permitted in Hemlock Lodge or in Park Cottages. Maximum of a six-foot leash required in campgrounds.

Unlawfully Posting Advertisements

KRS 512.080

(1) A person is guilty of unlawfully posting advertisements when, having no right to do so or any reasonable ground to believe he has such a right, he posts, paints or otherwise affixes to the property of another person or to public property any advertisement, poster, notice or other matter.

-KENTUCKY ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS-**Swimming**

304 KAR 1:020

(1) No person shall swim, bathe, or otherwise enter any water owned by, or leased to, or under the control of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Parks, or enter any waters from any shores of lands owned by, or leased to, or under the control of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Parks, unless they are within a swimming area designated by the Department of Parks.

Commercial Activities

304 KAR 1:030

(1) No person, corporation, or other entity shall conduct or engage in any form of trade, business, or other commercial activity, nor perform any type of service for consideration within the boundaries of any lands owned by, leased to or under the control of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Parks, without obtaining the prior written consent of the Department of Parks and such consent shall not be withheld on a discriminatory basis.

Metal Detectors

304 KAR 1:050

Section 1. Except as provided in Section 2 of this administrative regulation, the use of metal detectors shall be prohibited in all Kentucky State Parks.

Section 2. Park personnel, law enforcement personnel, and utilities may use metal detectors.

-STATE PARK POLICIES-

(THESE ACTIVITIES REQUIRE PERMITS OR WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM PARK OFFICIALS)

Rappelling and Rock Climbing

Park Policy Memo 05-01

The sport of rappelling and rock climbing with ropes, carabineers or any other means, are prohibited anywhere within the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks without prior written permission of the Commissioner of Parks.

Horseback Riding

Park Policy Memo 05-02

Horseback riding with privately owned horses in the state parks shall only be permitted in areas designated by the Commissioner of Parks.

This policy does not apply to licensed, concession operated horseback riding facilities.

All concession agreements shall be secured in accordance with established procurement policy.

Cave Exploration / Cave Accessibility: Permit Required

Park Policy Memo 05-04

Note: Contact the Park Naturalist Office for more information.

The sport of cave exploration hereinafter shall require the following:

1. Either a supervised guided tour by a designated Department of Parks employee or;
2. A permit issued by the Park Manager (or their designee) at the facility before any park guest may have access to, or otherwise explore, any cave on state park land and facilities.

The Park Manager (or their designee) shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether the requesting party is sufficiently trained and/or experienced to have access to, or explore the cave site(s) at the Park facility where permission is requested for unguided cave access/exploration.

The Park Manager shall require persons who seek permission for unguided cave access/exploration to execute a waiver of liability in favor of the Department of Parks and its agency, officers and employees to excuse it from loss, injury or damage to persons desiring unguided cave access/exploration. All other access to, or exploration of, State Park caves is strictly forbidden unless such activity occurs under the supervision of a State Park employee acting as "Tour Guide".

Scientific Collecting Plants, Animals or Geological Materials

Park Policy Memo 05-05

All collecting of plants, animals and geological materials for any purpose, including scientific is prohibited, unless written approval is obtained from the Commissioner of Parks. No other permission, written or verbal, is acceptable.

All requests should be forwarded to the State Naturalist for review and recommendation to the Commissioner of Parks. To insure the protection of species and to organize serious scientific investigations of the parks natural environment, a written permit will either be issued or denied depending on purposes, materials to be collected, others collecting in same area, species on endangered lists, etc.

The written scientific collection permit will contain all the necessary information, including expiration date, for the inspecting officer at the park. This permit can be verified against a file copy with the Department of Parks.

Hunted Game Brought onto State Parks

Park Policy Memo 05-07

Any wildlife or game taken by legal means under state hunting laws, with the exception of fish taken in lawful, noncommercial fishing activity, and brought onto land under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Department of Parks, is to be concealed from view. It is prohibited for game to be hung from trees, supported, field dressed or otherwise displayed within State Park boundaries.

Feeding of Wildlife

Park Policy Memo 05-08

The feeding of wildlife on lands managed by the Department of Parks is prohibited for park visitors and park personnel. This includes, but is not limited to, animals such as deer, raccoons, wild ducks and geese, foxes and skunks.

This policy also includes the dumping of leftover food waste from park food service facilities by park staff to feed wildlife. This does not prohibit or include the use of birdseed for bird feeders or mineral blocks at certain, designated wildlife observation areas.

GeoCaching

Park Policy Memo 05-10

Note: The sport of GeoCaching is prohibited at Natural Bridge State Park.

Many parks contain fragile habitats that can be damaged by foot traffic or have hazardous areas such as cliff-lines or sinkholes that may pose a danger to visitors. These rules should be followed when considering the placement of a geocache on a state park. Failure to do so will result in the removal of the cache by park staff.

1. Geocachers must contact the park prior to their visit to obtain permission to place a geocache, and inquire about possible designated and/or "off limit" areas.
2. Only virtual caches are allowed at the following parks, which have dedicated state nature preserves. Nothing physical can be placed on these properties. This is for the purpose of coinciding with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's geocaching policy. John James Audubon, Blue Licks, Carter Caves, Cumberland Falls, Kingdom Come, Natural Bridge & Pine Mountain.
3. Activities must be confined directly to the trail, and refrain from having to get off the trail to place or hunt for geocache. Caches shall be placed no more than an arm's length off park trails. Do not access fragile areas, such as rock houses, caves, bogs, wetlands, steep slopes, historic structures, and other sensitive sites. Avoid areas closed to the public, or deemed unsafe.
4. Follow all trail rules. Trail systems and some parks, close at dark.
5. Do not interfere, or detract from other park visitors' experiences. Do not place the cache in high use visitation areas.
6. Adhere to all other land use rules and posted information.
7. Report any incidents, problems, or violations to the appropriate park staff.
8. Encourage friends and fellow geocachers to follow this policy.

-RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES-

Fishing Regulations

Fishing allowed only in designated areas, watch for "No Fishing" signs. All Federal and State fishing laws apply.

Parking

Park in designated areas. Overnight parking permits required.

-CAMPING REGULATIONS-

304 KAR 1:040, RELATES TO: KRS 148.021, 148.029, 148.051, 148.056, 148.991 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 148.021(8)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 148.021(8) authorizes the Commissioner of Parks to promulgate administrative regulations relating to the operation of state park campgrounds. This administrative regulation establishes requirements for the orderly operation of state park campgrounds.

Camping shall be restricted to the campgrounds.

Backcountry camping is prohibited at Natural Bridge.

For more campground regulations go to: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/304/001/040.htm>

-ACTIVITIES SOMETIMES RESTRICTED-

Building Fires

During periods of extreme forest fire danger, (these times will be posted) fires of any type may be prohibited. Normally, cooking fires are permitted in any of the park's grills, or in suitable private grills. No ground fires are permitted without prior permission from park officials.

Hiking

Park hiking trails may be closed on rare occasions when forest fire danger is extremely high. These times are posted. Otherwise, hiking trails are open continuously for day hiking only. Backcountry camping is not permitted anywhere at Natural Bridge State Park.

-TRAIL REGULATIONS-

(YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS WHILE HIKING ON THE TRAILS)

The Following Acts are Prohibited:

- Defacing rock formations or trees,
- Hunting and trapping,
- Disturbing, capturing or killing any animal,
- Picking flowers or removing any plant material,
- Collecting specimens,
- Building fires or backcountry camping,
- Rock climbing or rappelling,
- Riding atv's, mountain bikes or horses,
- Hiking off the designated trails,
- Alcoholic Beverages,
- Littering,
- Hiking with pets.

Things To Remember:

- Mile markers show distances to Natural Bridge Arch
- In a typical year about 40 people fall from the cliffs in this area, two die from their injuries, some are permanently disabled. It often takes several hours to rescue and transport accident victims to the nearest hospital. Most accident victims are young adults who venture too close to the cliff edge. Don't become a statistic.
- Trails close at night; hikers must be out by sunset.

-STATE NATURE PRESERVE REGULATIONS-

Kentucky State Nature Preserves are established to protect and preserve rare species and the natural environment. Due to its geological and ecological significance, part of Natural Bridge State Resort Park has been dedicated as a Kentucky State Nature Preserve. This 1200 acre area includes the Natural Bridge itself and the surrounding trail system. Therefore, in addition to the laws and regulations governing the Kentucky State Parks system, the following regulations are enforced in the Nature Preserve in order to protect this unique area. By observing these rules you will be helping to protect Kentucky's natural heritage.

400 KAR 2:090. Management, use, and protection of nature preserves. (RELATES TO: KRS 146.410, 146.440 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 146.465, 146.475, 146.485, 224)

- Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
- Trails are open to foot traffic only. The established trail system provides you with the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
- Horses, bicycles, climbing and rappelling are not permitted in nature preserves because of their destructive impacts to the trails and natural features.
- Motorized vehicles are not permitted.
- Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited. Possession of firearms is illegal on dedicated State Nature Preserves.
- Collecting plants, animals, rocks, artifacts or wood reduces those things that are needed to maintain nature's delicate balance. Therefore, collecting, hunting and trapping are prohibited on dedicated State Nature Preserves.
- Hunting is allowed **only** at Stone Mountain State Natural Area (SNA), Martin's Fork SNA, Bissell Bluff SNA and Newman's Bluff SNA, in accordance with regulations established by KDFWR under KRS 150 and 300 KAR chapters 1 - 3.
- To ensure the natural beauty of each preserve and to promote visitor safety and enjoyment, camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets are not permitted.
- Remember to carry out your trash.

These rules are established by 400 KAR 2:090. Any person in violation of this regulation may be liable for a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day and possible criminal prosecution as provided for in KRS 224. For more information go to: <http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/>

-LEAVE NO TRACE-

Kentucky State Parks is a proud partner of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethnics.

Please remember these Leave No Trace Principles.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For more information go to: <http://www.lnt.org/>

